

Schweiker Claims JFK Clues

By CARL WEST
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, R-Pa., today said he has two significant new leads in his investigation of John F. Kennedy's assassination and he needs six more months to complete the inquiry.

Schweiker and Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., serve as a two-man subcommittee of the Senate Intelligence Committee to investigate alleged connections between Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)-backed efforts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and Kennedy's murder in 1963 by Lee Harvey Oswald.

The assignment expires May 31 but Schweiker said if he can get additional time "there is no question" he can develop enough new evidence to warrant reopening the Warren Commission's report on the assassination.

The commission concluded Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy and was not involved in any foreign conspiracy. Schweiker contends the commission did not adequately investigate Oswald's Cuban ties and the CIA plots to kill Castro.

Schweiker declined to detail his two new leads except to say one lead casts Oswald as pro-Castro, the other anti. He said they are "significant, meaningful," unexplored and are being checked out in Miami, Dallas and Mexico City.

Oswald is known to have had ties with the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee and at least one member of the Senate intelligence panel, Sen. Robert B. Morgan, D-N.C., said he believes Kennedy's murder was ordered by Castro or one of his agents in retaliation for CIA plots against the Cuban dictator.

The Warren Commission considered Oswald's connection with the Fair Play committee but concluded that it did not have a role in the killing.

Schweiker, however, said the commission failed to check out leads indicating Oswald also had links to anti-Castro Cuban groups.

One assassination theory holds that Oswald could have been anti-Castro and he shot Kennedy in retaliation of the President's handling of the disastrous American-backed attempt to overthrow Castro at the Bay of Pigs.

The Schweiker-Hart subcommittee also is studying testimony given the Warren Commission that Oswald in 1959 told a close friend during training at California's El Toro Marine Base that he was in touch with Cuban diplomatic officials.

A May, 1975, CIA memo said the Warren Commission failed to develop Oswald's 1959 conversation with his friend and such an investigation might have revealed Oswald's feelings toward and relations with Castro's Cuba.

That same memo, written for the Rockefeller Commission which examined the Kennedy assassination, said the Warren Commission also should have investigated a public threat Castro made against the lives of U.S. leaders two months before Kennedy was assassinated.

"United States leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorists plans to eliminate Cuban leaders, they themselves will not be safe," Castro said. Schweiker regards the threat as a key component to his investigation.

Schweiker said if he did not get an extension of time, his work could be carried on by a new but smaller select committee or by a permanent intelligence oversight committee if the Senate establishes one.



OSWALD